

Keynotes

November-December 2000

Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory

Volume 4, Number 11/12

“Biscayne Bubbles” Premiere!

“Biscayne Bubbles,” an educational series dedicated to promoting public awareness and appreciation for Biscayne Bay, premiered in the *The Islander*, Key Biscayne’s local newspaper, on November 2nd. Erica Van Coverden, AOML’s outreach coordinator, and Marella Crane, Sea Grant extension agent, jointly developed the “bubble” series, in conjunction and cooperation with the Virginia Key science community (AOML, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Sea Grant, and Miami Seaquarium), capitalizing upon the wealth of information available from the community’s collective knowledge of the Bay. For the remainder of the 2000-2001 school year, a new “bubble” will appear weekly in *The Islander*, presenting interesting facts and information about the Bay’s biological, chemical, and physical characteristics.

An estimated 42 “bubbles” will need to be researched and written for the series, which will eventually be compiled and reproduced in booklet form for distribution to the public. Contact Erica Van Coverden for comments and/or suggestions concerning prospective “bubble” topics (Erica.Van.Coverden@noaa.gov or 350-361-4541). Weekly “bubbles” will be displayed in the AOML lobby next to the elevator for viewing.



2000 Atlantic Hurricane Season Ends Quietly

The 2000 Atlantic hurricane season, which lived up to predictions by NOAA forecasters as being a year likely to produce above-average activity in the tropics, ended quietly on November 30th. The six-month season that began on June 1st produced 14 named storms, eight of which became hurricanes, three of which intensified to category 3 status (winds greater than 111 mph on the Saffir-Simpson scale). All of the season’s named tropical storms and hurricanes occurred between August and October, the peak months of the season, with September producing seven tropical storms (five of which reached hurricane status—Florence, Gordon, Isaac, Joyce, and Keith).

Despite the overall above-average activity, the 2000 season will likely be remembered as having been a milder, less catastrophic year for the United States than the past few hurricane seasons.

Although Tropical Storms Gordon and Helene came ashore in northern Florida in September and caused a substantial amount of flooding and damage, no other named storms impacted the United States. Not since 1994 has the U.S. survived a hurricane season free from experiencing a landfalling hurricane.

Residents of Central America were not as fortunate, however. Hurricane Keith, which developed over the northwestern Caribbean in late September, pounded Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and parts of Mexico on October 2-3 with high winds and heavy rain. The category 2 storm is blamed for at least 19 deaths and close to \$200 million in damages.

South Floridians will not quickly forget the 2000 season due to an unnamed storm, a large tropical weather system, that deluged Miami-Dade and southeastern Broward counties with up to 20 inches of rain on October 2-3, causing massive flooding. More than 95,000 homes and 600 businesses were damaged by the unnamed storm of 2000, which later drifted out into the Atlantic and became Tropical Storm Leslie before dissipating.

The 2000 hurricane season marked the third consecutive year of above-average storm activity. The trend towards increased levels of activity will likely continue, as scientists believe we have entered a cycle conducive to enhanced storm development.



Satellite image of Hurricane Keith as it approaches the Yucatan Peninsula on September 30, 2000.



AOML is a research laboratory of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research located on Virginia Key in Miami, Florida



Everglades Restoration Project Approved

Legislation to restore the 300-mile long Everglades ecosystem was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on November 10, 2000. The \$7.8 billion dollar effort, hailed as the largest, most ambitious environmental restoration project ever undertaken, seeks to undo decades of damage caused by flood-control efforts begun in the 1940s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The vast system of dams and levees constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers disrupted the Everglades' fragile ecosystem by diverting the natural flow of its water. Water that once flowed hundreds of miles over land was rerouted to drain into the ocean. Denied the sustenance of water, large portions of the Everglades have dried up, reducing by almost half the areas of sawgrass marsh and swamp land habitats supportive of native wildlife species and compromising south Florida's water resources.

The Army Corps of Engineers will spearhead the restoration effort, expected to take three decades to complete. They plan to remove approximately 240 miles of levees and canals that interfere with natural water flow, restore or create wetland areas to naturally cleanse water, build wastewater reuse facilities, and develop storage areas to contain critical fresh water supplies currently wasted by diversion to the ocean. NOAA's role is to provide scientific analysis of the greater Everglades ecosystem by serving on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, Working Group, Science Coordination Team, and other committees.

Singers, Musicians... All Levels



Join AOML's Holiday Music Ensemble

Contact Jack Stamates for more info
(305-361-4317 or Jack.Stamates@noaa.gov)

Diversity Seminars to Begin in January

Kristina Katsaros, Director, AOML

On November 14th, a large group of AOMLers met over their lunch hour to discuss what they would like to see happen in AOML's monthly seminars related to Diversity. This seminar series is intended to enrich our appreciation of the diversity in our community and to open communication about relationships, respect, and how to ensure rewarding work lives in the organization. A varied program is expected, including group discussions on several important subjects. The meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at lunchtime, except in January, when the meeting will take place in the second week.



One session will be devoted to honoring Black History Month. We expect a guest speaker for this seminar. In another session, we will view and discuss the 1957 film, "Twelve Angry Men." This classic movie tells the tale of 12 jurors and their process of coming to a verdict in spite of great diversity. Maria Bello will present a program on "Growing up Cuban." Charles Featherstone has volunteered to share his experiences and pictures from his vacation on an African safari. If enough folks volunteer to share their passions, hobbies, idiosyncrasies, etc., this promising series may become biweekly. In addition to programs presented by employees, teachers and professional diversity experts will be brought to AOML for training of sensitivity in interpersonal relationships.

I personally look forward to this year's seminar series with real excitement. I appreciate all the great ideas put forth by many AOMLers at our first meeting. Thanks for sharing your concerns so openly. It takes a certain amount of courage to speak about personal matters and feelings with colleagues, but that is what this series is all about—getting to know, understand, appreciate, and empathize with each other. I expect this to be so much fun that no one will want to miss a single event. Welcome everyone—visitors too!

Fourth Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB)

(NOSB is an academic competition for high school students focusing on ocean-related topics)

South Florida Regional Competition February 10-11, 2000

Volunteers are needed for judging teams (moderator, scientific judge, rules judge, scorekeeper, and timekeeper), logistics assistance, set-up and clean-up crews

Contact Erica Van Coverden
(305-361-4541 or Erica.Van.Coverden@noaa.gov)

Open Season

Federal Health Benefits Program (November 13-December 11, 2000)

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/index.htm>

**Thrift Savings Program
(November 13, 2000-January 31, 2001)**
<http://www.tsp.gov>

Congratulations

James Hendee, research oceanographer with the Ocean Chemistry Division, was invited by the White House to attend a Presidential Announcement on December 4, 2000 at the National Geographic Society's Headquarters in Washington, D.C. President Clinton announced that an 84-million acre zone of pristine islands and reefs would become a sanctuary to be known as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. The new reserve, the "Yellowstone of the Sea," is the largest nature preserve ever established in the United States.

Shirley Murillo, meteorologist with the Hurricane Research Division, has been appointed to the American Meteorological Society's Board on Women and Minorities. Shirley's three-year term with the Board begins in January 2001.

Farewell

Claude Jodoin, CIMAS Research Associate with the Physical Oceanography Division, resigned on December 15, 2000 after seven years of employment with AOML. Claude, a software engineer and data analyst with PhOD's Drifting Buoy Data Assembly Center, accepted a position with Motorola Corporation in Cypress Creek, Florida as a software engineer in their Global Software Division.

Dr. John J. Tsai, Physicist with the Remote Sensing Division, retired from federal service in November 2000 after 22 years of employment with NOAA.

CFC 2000 Results

Thank you all for your participation in AOML's Combined Federal Campaign 2000 program. AOML raised a total of \$23,078.35, exceeding 95% of the CFC-designated goal of \$24K. This year's campaign was extremely successful in that we surpassed last year's total contribution of \$20,247 and increased participation from 23 to 35 individuals. Great job!

Joe Pica, CFC 2000 Coordinator

Long-Time NOAA Employees Honored



Dr. D. James Baker (center) poses with some of NOAA's long-time Miami employees.

NOAA administrator Dr. D. James Baker visited AOML on October 26th to celebrate NOAA's 30th-year anniversary. While at AOML, he honored those employees who have worked for the agency since its inception in 1970. Celebrating 30 years of employment with NOAA was a group of 21 individuals representing AOML, the National Hurricane Center, and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center:

Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory

George Berberian, Peter Black, Howard Friedman, Donald Hansen, Robert Jones, Robert Kohler, Robert Molinari, Dennis Mayer, Victor Wiggert, Hugh Willoughby

National Hurricane Center

Donald Baer, Wayne Colin, Bernard Esposito, Brian Jarvinen, Miles Lawrence, James Lushine, Robert Pifer

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Bradford Brown, Rosetta Lima, William Richards, James Zweifel



A group of AOMLers volunteered for work duty at the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Nature Center on Key Biscayne this past November 4th. Here are a few pictures taken from their adventure with nature. **Top left:** Steve Feuer takes a break from his toils along the Osprey Beach Trail. **Top right:** Chris Landsea and Joe Pica work on lining a butterfly garden with rocks. **Bottom left:** Craig Engler prepares to plant portulaca in a butterfly garden. Other AOML volunteers included Claudia Schmid and Sean White.

Travel

Reyna Sabina and Robert Molinari attended a National Oceanographic Partnership Program Virtual Ocean Data System Workshop in Stennis, Mississippi on October 30-November 2, 2000.

Stanley Goldenberg participated in the Climate and Coastal Island Communities Workshop in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 6-8, 2000.

Silvia Garzoli attended a North Brazil and Brazil Currents meeting in New York City, New York and an Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research/Office of Global Programs meeting in Washington, D.C., on November 8-13, 2000.

Jules Craynock, Joseph Bishop, Bret Elkind, and Jack Stamates participated in a NOAA/Environmental Protection Agency Puerto Rico Outfall Study research cruise aboard the EPA ship AOSV *Anderson* in Puerto Rico on November 13-22, 2000.

David Enfield attended the American Geophysical Union's Chapman Conference on the North Atlantic Oscillation in Galicia, Spain on November 25-December 2, 2000.

Kristina Katsaros and Alberto Mestas-Núñez will attend the Pacific Ocean Remote Sensing Conference (PORSEC) in Goa, India on December 5-8, 2000.

Peter Ortner, Judy Gray, David Enfield, and Linda Pikula will attend the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference in Naples, Florida on December 11-15, 2000.

Kelly Goodwin, Dennis Mayer, Tsung-Hung Peng, Rik Wanninkhof, and Shari Yvon-Lewis will attend the American Geophysical Union's Annual Fall Meeting in San Francisco, California on December 15-20, 2000.

**H a p p y
N e w Y e a r
2001**



Holiday Party



December 15, 2000

1:00 p.m., Main Lobby

\$6.00 per Person*
(kids 12 and under free)

(*must be paid by December 14th)

Bring a dish to share with others
Turkey, Ham, Stuffing, and Drinks Provided

**Contact Nina Liebig (ext. 4308) or
Chuck Featherstone (ext. 4401) for more info**

(sponsored by the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Committee)

Thank You!

AOML's holiday generosity provided much needed food and groceries for eight south Florida families. We were able to purchase nine \$25.00 Winn Dixie gift certificates, which were distributed to families in need through churches and schools in our community. The Principal at one of the receiving schools was so inspired by our generosity that she took up a collection among her office staff and was able to add an additional \$25.00 certificate to each of the three families she gave our gifts to. Each of the families that received the gift certificates had children. I understand that nearly all of the families received your gifts of love with tears of joy. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and caring.

Sincerely, Evan Forde

Keynotes is published monthly by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted prior to the last week of each month to ensure inclusion in the following month's edition. Please address all correspondence to: Office of the Director, 4301 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149. Contributions may also be submitted by fax at (305) 361-4421 or by email (derr@aoml.noaa.gov).

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The deadline for submitting material for the January issue of *Keynotes* is Friday, December 22, 2000.

Keynotes can be viewed online in PDF format at the following
World-Wide Web Internet address:
<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/keynotes>